

PLANNING AND DESIGN DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449 Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0052

V I R G I N A

Telephone: 703-324-5800 Fax: 703-324-4365

September 30, 2003

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Eastern Virginia Regulatory Section Regulatory Branch 803 Front Street Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1096 OC - 2

Attention: Mr. Nickolas L. Konchuba, Chief

Reference: Project 009452 Burke Centre VRE Parking Lot Expansion

Dear Mr. Konchuba:

The existing Burke Centre VRE parking lot is situated on approximately 7.4 acres on the south side of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks just east of Roberts Parkway (see attached location map). Approximately 540 surface parking spaces exist on the site. A recent study performed by Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade and Douglas, Inc. has projected that approximately 1,500 to 1,750 spaces will be required by the year 2025 to serve the growing demand for commuter rail service in the Burke Centre area. Structured parking will be required to meet this demand.

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is studying expansion alternatives for the Burke Centre VRE Station. One of the alternative sites that the members of a citizen's task force are recommending is a wetland mitigation site constructed by the Virginia Department of Transportation to compensate for wetland losses during the construction of the Roberts Parkway Overpass project (see attached location map). This site offers distinct advantages and disadvantages. The greatest advantage is that construction of the garage can occur with minimal disturbance to the operations of the existing station. The garage can also take advantage of the preservation of all the existing parking in determining the size of the structure. The greatest disadvantage is that the site is currently designated as a wetland mitigation site. It is also physically separated from the existing entrance to the VRE parking lot requiring the development of a second station access point from Guinea Road with accompanying road widening, turn lanes, and signing. Finally, by being located on the north side of the railroad tracks, a bridge would be necessary to cross the riders to the entrance to the VRE Station.

We would like your opinion on the feasibility of the use of the wetland mitigation site as a possible site for future parking for the Burke Centre VRE Station. Please advise us as to the likelihood of getting approval to use the site and what measures would be necessary to mitigate for the loss of the current mitigation.

Mr. Nickolas L. Conchuba Project 009452 Burke Centre VRE Parking Lot Expansion Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact either James Cole or me at (703) 324-5800.

Sincerely yours,
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Larry L. Ichter, Chief

Transportation Design Branch

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Attachments: As Stated

cc: Florence Naeve, Administrative Aide, Braddock District Supervisor's Office

cc: Leonard Wolfenstein, Chief, Transportation Planning Section, Department of Transportation

cc: Dan Southworth, Senior Transportation Planner, Department of Transportation



